The Cochin Sea Customs Act (Amendment) Bill.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*): Sir, I move that the Cochin Sea Customs Act Amendment Bill be taken up and passed.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja (*Advocate General*): I second it.

The motion was put and carried.

RESOLUTIONS.

4. Publication of Text Books by Government.

***Mr. K. M. Ibrahim** (*Cranganur*): Mr. President Sir, I crave the kind indulgence of the Hon'ble House to accept the following resolution "*This Council recommends to the Government to be so good as to fully work out their own Proceedings passed about 10 years ago, in 1104, to the effect, "The present mode of selection of text-books from private presses and publishers gives rise to unhappy situations, while the proper remedy would seem to be the publication of books by the Government itself. The Travancore Government are already doing it. There will be no objection here also .....*"

I do not think Sir, that a long explanation is due from me on this self-evident proposition. The resolution only requests that the Government must give effect to their own Proceedings passed about 10 years ago. This matter has been repeated in this House *ad naesium*, and the principle underlying it has been accepted by the House by passing identical resolutions several times of which some have even been accepted by the Government. The matter has further received a consummating acceptance by the kind assurance on the part of the Hon'ble Diwan President in the Budget Session of 1112 when he maintained that it is the intention of the Government to fully work out the proposition. Under these circumstances, Sir, I believe the Government will accept this resolution which is intended only to expedite matters.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (*Planters*): Sir, I have very great pleasure in seconding this resolution. The first idea which arises in my mind when I rise to second this resolution is the necessity for giving books at the cheapest rates especially to the elementary classes. Statistics show us, Sir, that there are about a lakh and seventy-three thousand pupils now in the

*Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member.

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schools of our State. While that is in itself a praiseworthy thing for the State and for its educational development, I may say, that very many are labouring under difficulties in the matter of obtaining books especially in the country parts where there are people who can't even afford to give food to their children. In fact, the first condition necessary for the development of primary education in the State is the supply of cheap books soon after the schools are re-opened or even before that. These two difficulties are experienced in this matter. One is, as I said, the cost of books and the second is the time at which they are given. Very often, that is my information, these books are supplied long after the schools are re-opened. I look to the Member for Education for supplying the necessary information on that point. For these two reasons, it is absolutely necessary that the Government should remove those people who want to make a profit out of printing and publishing books and supply the books as cheap as possible to the poorest of the people. For these reasons, I second it.

Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon (*Kattur*): Mr. President Sir, I have great pleasure to support this resolution.

If I bring to the notice of this House the prevailing system regarding the text books, the urgency will be immediately felt for immediate measures being taken to remedy the present unhealthy system. I do admit that there is a syllabus to be followed regarding the text books even now. The Government have prescribed on what all topics lessons must be written, what all authors must be selected, what all poetry pieces must be introduced—I do admit all these things even now prevail. But on account of some peculiar circumstances, on account of the favours to be shown to somebody by the text book publishers themselves, we find that in the standard of text books at present there is something not worthy to be appreciated. Sir, if we take a text book at present, what do we generally see? It is not possible for us to see any of the ancient poets or authors introduced there. In this connection, let me bring to the attention of this House, that it is because that the new publishers and printers have in their custody some recent authors and some recent poets that they are compelled to follow this system. If they select the poems of these poets and if they prescribe their essays, nothing worth saying has to be paid to them. On the other hand, good poems and good essays are even now under the copyright of some printers or publishers or some private agency. To get permission to select them they must pay something. The books that we get as text books at present, are not worthy to be called text books. I, as a member of the Text Book Committee, felt

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in the last sitting of the Text Book Committee itself the miserable condition of the text books. We are compelled to select something and we must select from what is at our disposal for consideration. I don't want the Government to undertake the publication of the books themselves. Let the Government call for tenders and let the Government prescribe on what all subjects essays must be written, and before introducing the books for the consideration of the Text Book Committee let them be examined. At the same time there must be a reduction in the prices also. We now get books priced at 12 as. 14 as. and Re. 1, but the books are not worthy to be priced even at 6 as. or 4 as. As the hon'ble Member for Education mentioned yesterday, now the Text Book Committee has accepted the idea of prescribing the prices of the books also, but in some cases, we find that the publishers are not willing to agree to it. Under these circumstances, I find there is urgent necessity for quick measures to be taken by the Government, to see that the standard of our language is kept in tact, so that students may not find, after a few years, that they have no language at all. I heartily support this resolution.

* മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ: സർ, ടെക്സ്റ്റ് ബുക്ക് കമ്മിറ്റിയിൽ കുറേകാലം ഇരുന്നിട്ടുള്ള അനുഭവംവെച്ചുകൊണ്ട് ചില സംഗതികൾ വിശദമാക്കുവാൻ വേണ്ടിയാണ് ഞാൻ എഴുന്നേറ്റ് നില്ക്കുന്നത്. ഗവൺമെണ്ട് പറഞ്ഞിരുന്നതുപോലെ പ്രൈമറി ക്ലാസ്സുസിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം ഉള്ള ടെക്സ്റ്റ്ബുക്കുകൾ ഇപ്പോൾ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിൽനിന്നും പരസ്യം ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ട്. പക്ഷെ അതിൽ ഗവൺമെണ്ട് പ്രസ്സിൽനിന്നും പ്രസിദ്ധം ചെയ്യാതെ കൺട്രാക്റ്റ് കൊടുത്ത ഏജൻറിനെകൊണ്ട് പ്രസിദ്ധം ചെയ്യിക്കുന്നു എന്ന ഒരു വ്യത്യാസം മാത്രമേയുള്ളൂ. ഇന്നലെ ഡയറക്ടർ പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ പ്രൈമറി ക്ലാസ്സുകളിലല്ലാതെ സെക്കണ്ടറി ക്ലാസ്സുകളിലെ ടെക്സ്റ്റ്ബുക്കുസ് ഗവൺമെണ്ടിൽനിന്നുതന്നെ പരസ്യം ചെയ്യുന്നതിൽ ചില വിഷമങ്ങളെല്ലാമുണ്ട്. ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മെമ്പർ ടെക്സ്റ്റ് ബുക്സിലെ ഭാഷയെപ്പറ്റി പറഞ്ഞതു ശരിയാണ്. ഈ മലയാളഭാഷയുടെ സ്ഥിതി ഇങ്ങിനെയിരിക്കുന്നിടത്തോളം കാലം ആ വിഷമം മാറുകയില്ലെന്നാണ് എന്റെ വിശ്വാസം. ഭാഷക്കു ഒരു യൂണിഫാറം വരുത്തുവാൻ വളരെ വിഷമമാണ്. അതിൽ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനെ കുറ്റം പറഞ്ഞിട്ടു കാര്യമില്ല. ഗവൺമെണ്ട് എന്തു ചെയ്യും. കുറെ ആതേഴ്സിനെ (Authors) സെലക്റ്റ്ചെയ്തു ഇതിനു വെക്കാമെന്നുവെച്ചാൽ അതിനും വളരെ പ്രയാസമാണ്. ചിലപ്പോൾ കാശിനുകൊള്ളാത്ത പുസ്തകമായിരിക്കും ചില Authors എഴുതികൊണ്ടുവരുന്നത്. മലയാളഭാഷക്കു ഇംഗ്ലീഷിനും മറ്റുമുള്ളതുപോലെ ഒരു standard വന്നിട്ടില്ലെന്നാണ് എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നത്. ഞാൻ ടെക്സ്റ്റ്ബുക്ക് കമ്മിറ്റിയിൽ മെമ്പറായിരുന്നപ്പോൾ എന്റെ കയ്യിൽ കിട്ടിയ ഒരു പുസ്തകം ടെക്സ്റ്റ്ബുക്കിനു തീരെ കൊള്ളാത്തതാണെന്നു ഞാൻ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടിട്ട് ആ പുസ്തകം ഭരിക്ഷപ്രകാരം ടെക്സ്റ്റ് ബുക്കായിട്ട് എടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്റെ അഭിപ്രാ

* Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member.

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യം ചിലപ്പോൾ തെറ്റായിരിക്കാം. ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് പുസ്തകങ്ങളുടെ കാര്യത്തിലാണെങ്കിൽ അവർ ടെക്സ്റ്റ് ബുക്കായിട്ട് സെലക്റ്റ് ചെയ്യുന്ന ഏതു പുസ്തകവും എടുത്താൽ കൊള്ളാം. ഈ മലയാളഭാഷയിലുള്ള ടെക്സ്റ്റ് ബുക്സിന്റെ സെലക്ഷനു എത്ര വലിയ കവികളെ ഏല്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടായാലും അതു പ്രായോഗികമാണെന്നു എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. കവിക്കു ടെക്സ്റ്റ് ബുക്സ് എഴുതുവാൻ അറിയുമോ? കവികൾക്കു ടെക്സ്റ്റ് ബുക്സ് എഴുതുവാൻ അറിയുകയില്ല. അവരെ ഏല്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടായാൽ അവർ ശ്ലോകങ്ങൾ എഴുതും. വിഷയം അറിയാവുന്ന ആളുകൾക്കു എഴുതുവാൻ അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ. ശരിയായിട്ടുള്ള ടെക്സ്റ്റ് ബുക്സ് എഴുതണമെങ്കിൽ ആധുനികമായ ലോകപരിജ്ഞാനവും പാണ്ഡിത്യവും ഉള്ള ആളുകൾ ആയിരിക്കണം. അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള ആളുകളെ കിട്ടുന്നതുവരെയും—കുറേകാലത്തേക്കെങ്കിലും—ഇങ്ങിനെയെല്ലാം പോകയല്ലാതെ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലെന്നാണ് എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നതു്. മിസ്റ്റർ പത്തർ അച്ചുതമേനോൻ പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ, സെലക്റ്റ് ചെയ്യുവാൻ കിട്ടുന്ന പുസ്തകങ്ങൾക്കു ഇപ്പോൾ ധാരാളം ന്യൂനതകൾ ഉണ്ടു് എന്നുള്ളതു് ഞാനും ടെക്സ്റ്റ്ബുക്കു കമ്മിറ്റിയിൽ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടു്. കുറേകാലം കൂടി കഴിഞ്ഞാൽ എക്സ്പർട്ട്സിനെക്കൊണ്ടു് ഭാഷയിലുള്ള ന്യൂനതകളൊക്കെ മാറ്റിക്കാം. അതെല്ലാം കഴിച്ചിട്ടും പുസ്തകം ശരിയാകുന്നില്ലെങ്കിൽ അതു ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനേയും ടെക്സ്റ്റ്ബുക്കു കമ്മിറ്റിയുടേയും ദോഷമല്ല. ഈ നിശ്ചയത്തെപ്പറ്റിയുള്ള ന്യായമായ സംശയങ്ങളൊക്കെ ഗവൺമെണ്ടു് ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): On a point of information, Sir, may I know whether the Government has fixed any royalty or moiety for giving tender for the text books?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (*Director of Public Instruction*): There is no royalty which is being paid to the Government for this monopoly.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): For giving the monopoly.....

Mr. President: The hon'ble member can't carry on with questions now. He can have a speech, if he wants.

Before the House carry on with the discussion, I may say that I have been hearing this subject discussed in this House for the last three years. I must say frankly that I have not been able really to understand what exactly the House wants the Government to do. My contention is that the Government have accepted the resolution of the House and have acted upon it. Yet the hon'ble member now says that we have not acted upon it. I must frankly confess that I am not in a position now to say what exactly the accusations against the Government are, and what exactly the House wants the Government to do. In the first instance, when you talk of text-books, some hon'ble members have in mind the text-books of primary classes; others have in mind text-books for both secondary and primary

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classes; some others have in mind the quality of the text-books, and others have in mind the price of the books. What exactly the hon'ble members mean and what exactly the Government are called upon to do, I am not certainly in a position to understand. Further the hon'ble member who has moved the resolution has not advanced even a single argument explaining the position. He has moved it in a most blank manner.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim (*Cranganur*): Sir, if I may be permitted to speak, I shall say just one word. There was no definite accusation against the Government in my speech. My point is that the principle that has now been accepted for the primary classes should be extended to the secondary and high school classes also.

Mr. President: Is that the idea? Does the hon'ble member think that this resolution brings out that idea?

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim (*Cranganur*): It was said here yesterday, that so far as the primary classes are concerned some arrangements have been made. Our request now is that the same arrangement should be followed as far as possible in the lower secondary and high school classes also.

Mr. President: The hon'ble member's idea in moving the resolution is, that the acceptance by Government of the resolution of the House as regards primary classes must also be extended as far as possible to the secondary classes. Surely that is not the language of the resolution, nor the meaning of it.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (*Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, my main difficulty is this. I was under the honest impression that Government have acted upon the resolution that was passed more than once by this House. I do not wish to criticise the language, but it gives room for some doubt. The resolution wants the Government to do something. This something is 'proper remedy would seem to be the publication of books by themselves'. Government have, on the other hand, gone much farther than the Proceedings of 1104 and have undertaken the responsibility for the publication of books which relate to the elementary schools which after all form the bulk of our educational institutions. I also incidentally pointed out yesterday some specific difficulties with regard to the printing and publishing of text-books for the secondary classes. The main point for any Government to undertake a service like this is trying necessity. Unless a case is proved that there is no suitable agency to undertake the work, I honestly believe, that Government have no business to undertake such work. With

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regard to the primary classes, it was proved that there was a case for the Government to undertake this service and Government have consistently with the ideas of its function and consistently with the assurance given to the hon'ble House, carried out as far as possible the undertaking as regards the publication of these books. With regard to the secondary classes, in my humble view, the position is somewhat different. Government do not feel that this service has to be undertaken by them. In the first place, there is no scarcity of good books which are suitable. In the second place, while primary education, more or less like vaccination, is a primary necessity, we cannot admit that secondary education stands on the same footing. Whatever services Government may be called upon to perform in respect of the one, they cannot be called upon to do in respect of the other. In spite of all these, the Text Book Committee considered the question of printing and publishing text-books for the Public Examination of Form III and the School Final. We found that the Madras Text-Book Committee have approved of books which are equally suitable for this State. It is practically the same syllabus, the same examination and the same rules of eligibility to the Matriculation. There is no point therefore in this Government undertaking this duplicate work. The selections for the School Final, Madras, are equally suitable for the School Final, Cochin State. The Committee considered the question of publishing the books for two separate classes of the upper secondary and the lower secondary department and the Committee finally decided that in respect of these two, a case has not been made out for the Government to undertake the publication.

Yesterday the hon'ble member pointed out certain directions in which improvements should be made. And on behalf of the Government, the Chair gave an assurance that the matter may again be looked into. But, if it is your contention that the previous resolution which was passed and accepted by Government should be further implemented they are prepared to do so. As regards the extension of the principle to the secondary or upper secondary classes, Government cannot do that unless specific reasons are given.

Mr. President: Do you definitely say that the principle cannot be accepted in the secondary department?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (*Director of Public Instruction*): That was the definite position taken up by the Text Book Committee. They said while there may be a case for any public authority undertaking the publication of books which concern

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the masses there is no case made out for the Government undertaking the publication in secondary and high school classes. That was the position taken up by them. Therefore no further steps were taken. As far as I remember, as the Chair pointed out, I do not recollect any resolution having been passed recommending the publication of books for the secondary department. I do not oppose this resolution on any other ground. We have already accepted the resolution and if the hon'ble member wants a further extension of the principle it is not possible for the Government at present to do so.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim (*Cranganur*) : Sir, the hon'ble Member for Education was saying that this resolution has never been passed by this House on the understanding that the principle followed for primary education will be accepted to lower secondary and upper secondary classes. But whenever this question was mooted in this House, it was definitely pointed out by the mover as well as those who supported him that what they wanted was that this principle should be followed as far as possible until the School Final Class. So the point that the matter has never been raised in this House cannot hold water. How a principle that can be followed for the primary classes cannot be followed for the lower secondary and the high school classes is not intelligible to us. I request the House that the resolution be adopted so that the point may be brought to greater prominence before the Government's attention.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (*Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, the resolution may be made perfectly clear before putting it to the vote.

Mr. President : We can't amend the resolution at this stage. In any case, the resolution is absolutely vague and so far as Government is concerned, we must make it perfectly plain that we are not in a position to understand the implications of the resolution. The Director has made it perfectly clear that it is not possible to extend the principle of Government publication of text books to lower secondary and upper secondary classes in the same manner as the primary classes.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim (*Cranganur*): Sir, I will take a better opportunity for explaining the various issues arising out of this resolution. For the time being therefore, I ask the leave of the House to withdraw the resolution.

The resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

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